







Bloom syndrome is a rare autosomal recessive disorder characterized by growth deficiency, unusual facies, and extreme photosensitivity. Patients with Bloom syndrome have a high incidence of cancer, particularly squamous cell carcinoma of the skin, and are at an increased risk for leukemia and lymphoma. The disorder is caused by a mutation in the BLM gene, which encodes the protein hBLM, a member of the RecQ family of DNA helicases. The mutation in BLM leads to genomic instability and chromosome breakage, which is the underlying mechanism for the clinical features of the syndrome.